

## **Recycling and Refuse Management Committee**

### **Minutes from 1/8/09 meeting**

**Present:** Meg Vickery, Chair; Susan Waite, DPW Liaison; Marianne Lorenzelli; Lucy McMurrer; Sterling Bush; John Root; Greg Keochakian.

December minutes were approved with minor changes.

#### Transfer Station Update

Sterling learned it would cost about \$400 to repair the Transfer Station roof. The committee needs to brainstorm where that money might come from:

- donation box at Transfer Station
- Cows/Home Depot/other local lumber supply businesses donations
- Kuhn Riddle Architects because it's a green roof
- The Amherst Women's Club
- David Mazur of Reader to Reader might have ideas
- The League of Women Voters

Sterling also passed around several handouts regarding bubblewrap recycling at the Transfer Station. So far her initiative has saved the town approx. \$50 and has helped preserve the environment through recycling. Egg cartons are also now able to be recycled at the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station will also need a container for recycling soon since there is an increase in amount of recyclable material there now.

#### Downtown Business Recycling

Commercial recycling in Amherst isn't clearly mandated so the Board of Health may change the regulations. Should our committee rewrite these regulations to make them clearer? Marianne and Greg will help Susan on this. Food For Thought's owner, Mitch Gaslin, is working on a recycling push with FFT's business neighbors and Susan will work with him on this. Sterling also pointed out that Duseau Trucking owes the town money for Transfer Station use. Susan will look into this and check out their licensing.

#### Styrofoam Ban

A few weeks ago Lucy notified Susan that she was unable to find any Massachusetts communities that have instituted a Styrofoam ban. Therefore Susan posted a query to the MassRecycle listserve and received a response about Great Barrington banning clamshell take-out containers. Lucy will follow up on this. Susan's DEP contact doesn't know of any MA communities who've done this either. Portland, Oregon, already has such a ban in place – perhaps contact them? Susan said Guilford delineated the steps needed to make this ban happen: Town attorney – Select Board – Town Meeting – Finance Committee – Public Hearings. Although not necessarily in that order, she cautioned.

#### New Business

Susan announced that Julie Federman, the Amherst Town Nurse, has left. Therefore the Sharps needle recycling program has been halted. The goal of the Sharps program is to pull needles from regular waste, sterilize them, and put them into hazardous material waste. Greg mentioned that Lisa White is a public health nurse in the town of Amherst; perhaps she's taken Julie Federman's place? Susan will speak to Epi Bodhi about the fate of Sharps.

Meg mentioned some potential difficulties with the Thursday meeting date. Perhaps we should move the committee meeting to another day?

Next committee meeting scheduled for *the first Thursday of February*, the 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:30.

Meeting adjourned 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy McMurrer